

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 DOE-15 H-01 INR-10 INT-05 L-03

NSAE-00 OMB-01 PM-05 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-07

TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00

DOEE-00 /110 W

-----086761 281128Z /17

O 281120Z APR 78 ZFF6

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8511

INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, EG

SUBJ: FIRE AT AMOCO'S RAS SHUKAIR TERMINAL

1. AMOCO/EGYPT DUTY OFFICER HAS JUST INFORMED US THAT FIRE BROKE OUT AT ABOUT 2115 HOURS APRIL 27, IN ONE OF COMPANY'S STORAGE TANKS AT ITS RAS SHUKAIR TERMINAL. TWO EGYPTIAN EMPLOYEES, WHO WERE IN THE AREA AT THE TIME AND WHO WERE BURNED BY FIRE, SAID THAT FIRE PRECEDED BY EXPLOSION. FIRE RAGED OUT OF CONTROL MOST OF NIGHT DUE TO FAILURE OF WATER LINE USED TO FIGHT FIRE. SECOND TANK, WHICH WITHIN SAME FIRE RETAINING WALL AREA, EXPLODED EARLY MORNING APRIL 28. BOTH TANKS ARE CURRENTLY BURNING OUT OF CONTROL.

2. HIGH LEVEL MANAGEMENT TEAM HAS GONE TO RAS SHUKAIR TO SUPERVISE FIRE FIGHTING OPERATIONS. ACCORDING TO DUTY OFFICER, HELICOPTERS ARE CURRENTLY DROPPING FOAM ON THE FIRE IN ATTEMPT TO CONTROL IT. THUS FAR SURROUNDING TANKS, WHICH ARE OUTSIDE FIRE RETAINING WALL, ARE NOT DAMAGED. AMOCO'S HOPE IS THAT FIRE WALLS WILL HOLD

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AND THAT FIRE WILL BE ABLE TO BURN ITSELF OUT.

3. ACCORDING TO AMOCO, THERE ARE NO REPORTS OF INJURIES OTHER THAN THE TWO EGYPTIAN WORKERS WHO WERE BROUGHT TO CAIRO EARLY APRIL 28. SOME OTHER REPORTS CONTAINED INDICATION OF DEAD AND INJURED. DUTY OFFICER PROMISED KEEP US INFORMED OF INFORMATION PROVIDED BY

TEAM SENT TO RAS SHUKAIR.

4. REGARDING EFFECT ON AMOCO'S OPERATIONS, DUTY OFFICER SAID IT IS STILL TOO EARLY TO TELL. DAILY PRODUCTION OPERATIONS DO NOT DEPEND ON STORAGE TANKS AFFECTED; HOWEVER, DAMAGE TO PIPELINES AND PUMPING STATIONS IN THE AREA NOT YET KNOWN. DUTY OFFICER REMARKED THAT STORAGE TANKS DO NOT USUALLY SPONTANEOUSLY EITHER CATCH ON FIRE OR BLOW UP. LIGHTNING HAS BEEN KNOWN TO CAUSE COMBUSTION, BUT THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF A STORM AT RAS SHUKAIR EVENING APRIL 27. THOROUGH INVESTIGATION WILL BE CARRIED OUT TO DETERMINE CAUSE OF FIRE. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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ISecure: 1
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